



MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN
Wednesday, April 6, 2016
Mansfield Senior Center
DRAFT - MINUTES

Members Present: Maggie Ferron (staff), Pat Schneider (staff), Judy Stoughton, Acey Neel, Pam Roberts, Kathy Ward, Lisa Dahn, Marianne Legassey, Ben Wiles, Rachel LeClerc, Ana Zeller, Heather Lasky, Lisa Young, Susan Daley

Regrets: Jane Goldman, Jen Scanlon, Jordana Frost

Guests: Jiff Martin, Natalie Pavane, Barb Gardina, Diane Dorfer

WHAT	DISCUSSION	OUTCOME
CALL TO ORDER	Maggie Ferron called the meeting to order at 5:35pm.	
CONSENT AGENDA	Approval of the Minutes of March 2, 2016.	<i>The March 2, 2016 meeting minutes were approved.</i>
TOPICAL DISCUSSION, POLICIES TOWARDS HEALTHY EATING	<p>Mansfield Board of Education official Kathy Ward led a discussion of policies in place regarding lunch and recess. The district's wellness policy was developed by mandate to state statute. Regarding why there was no recess at the middle school, Kathy was told that it "wasn't do-able because something would have to give;" and that there are "x block" physical activities that kids can sign up for. Knowing that getting some activity into the schedule for all kids is a priority for the group, Kathy will keep pushing. There are also issues with how to staff this free time and the fact that middle schoolers might choose to go out and stand around. The ability for kids to use the facilities in off hours for exercise was also discussed, particularly families and kids that aren't as engaged in the community. Mansfield is already ahead of some districts because we have PE 3x/week as opposed to 2. Discussion as to how to incorporate physical activity into the classroom took place; inquiries as to whether teachers might take the lead on this. Competing activity, after-school sports.</p> <p>Jiff Martin suggested that district wellness policies will need revisions soon and that this may be a good opportunity to make changes.</p> <p>Ana Zeller sits on the Town wellness committee; question as to whether this body would be a good vehicle for the changes we're looking at.</p> <p>Ana Zeller further suggested that a professional</p>	<p><i>Marianne Legassey volunteered to look into whether the school PTOs would be interested in getting involved with the schools' physical activity policies- possibly volunteering to staff free outdoor times.</i></p> <p><i>Ana Zeller offered to bring up topics discussed with Town wellness committee to determine whether it is an appropriate body.</i></p>

	<p>development training, online or in person, might help teachers integrate physical activity into their day. Rahcel LeClerc indicated that the PD schedule is full for SY 15-16 and there would likely not be room for this in SY 16-17.</p> <p>Maggie Ferron initiated discussion of breastfeeding-friendly policies raised by Dr Mobley at March meeting. Suggested possibility of signs or decals for local offices and businesses. Membership raised concerns that this might lead mothers to believe that there were private spaces for breastfeeding available at these locations.</p> <p>Maggie Ferron initiated discussion of lack of healthy foods at Parks and Rec events and in the MCC's vending machines. Pat Schneider informed membership that an outside agency controls vending machines, but that it's possible to not have them at all. Ben Wiles raised the possibility of selling healthy foods such as bananas and yogurt at the front desk. Rachel LeClerc suggested this is an issue for parents, not the town.</p> <p>Diane Dorfer introduced topic of the library's garden. There are a lot of opportunities for participation and volunteers. Kids responded to the programs, people respected the space, gave away a lot of produce. Last year, they grew cherry tomatoes, gourds, etc. The library sponsored some great family activities at the library, such as a garden party. To volunteer, families can contact Diane or Judy. Will send out information once they get the program established for the year. Diane, as the owner/operator of a local CSA, has been talking to Kariann about farm to school grant. Ideas for seedling swap and other activities discussed.</p> <p>Ben Wiles raised the topic of improving the school lunch program to include more fresh, local food. While there are restrictions on what can be implemented due to state and federal regulations, other districts have been able to make changes.</p> <p>Lisa Young added that Mansfield Discovery Depot is bound by the same regulations as the public schools and that she can't use the food grown at the MDD garden in their nutritional program.</p> <p>Susan Daley commented on the financial barriers to centers adding fresh local food but that she has been able to add local Mountain Dairy milk for Willow House students.</p>	<p><i>No action at this time.</i></p> <p><i>Maggie will raise possibility of bananas and yogurt and doing away with vending machines Parks and Rec.</i></p> <p><i>MAC working group dedicated to increasing fresh, local food that Mansfield children have access to discussed: Ana, Ben, Diane, Jiff, and Susan agreed to participate.</i></p>
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STAFF REPORT	<p>Staff Report: Maggie Ferron</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The School Readiness RFPs are due 4/8. Review panel will meet and be given packets to assess 4/19; due back to Maggie with completed rubrics 4/26. • There will be QE money left over in '15-'16 funds, as about \$950 won't be spent as allocated on CPR/1st Aid. Possibilities of spending discussed, perhaps working with the library as suggested by Pat Schneider. • Centers need to have parents submit SR applications by 4/8 so that Maggie can compile proposed slot allocation for FY 16-17. • Raising Readers going well, thanks to Janice Boltseridge and Anne Bladen of CDL. • Budget: Pat Schneider has written Early Childhood Services Coordinator and Assistant hours into the Human Services budget. Advocacy will be needed to support this inclusion. • Playground Egg Hunt raised \$145, was more of a fun community event than a fundraiser. • Bylaws: APPROVED. Will be submitted with the FY16-17 school readiness community RFP. 	<p><i>Kathy Ward, Kelly Zimmermann, and Pam Roberts volunteered to be on committee evaluating S/R RFPs.</i></p> <p><i>Maggie will work with Center Directors and Library to determine best use for unspent QE funds.</i></p>
NEW BUSINESS	<p>Next Meeting Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices: Pro-Social Behavior. Marianne Legassey volunteered to present on CDL's methods. 	
ADJOURN	<p>The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>Next Regular MAC Meeting, Wednesday, May 2, Mansfield Senior Center</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Maggie Ferron, Early Childhood Services Coordinator</p>	

All Mansfield Children ages birth through 8 years old are healthy, successful learners, and their families are connected to the community.